

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 105-140 are pending in the application, with claim 105 being the independent claim. Claims 106-140 have been amended to update dependencies as a result of the claim renumbering. The specification has been amended to update the cross-reference to related applications and cross-reference to microfiche appendices data. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 105-140 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 43-79 of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938. The Examiner has also rejected claims 105-140 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 44-81 of U.S. Patent No. 6,334,103.

Applicants have submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) to obviate the judicially created double patenting rejection of claims 105-140 of the instant application over claims 43-79 of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 and claims 44-81 of U.S. Patent No. 6,334,103. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 105-140 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

The Examiner has objected to the numbering of the claims as not being in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.126, which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout prosecution. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's renumbering of claims 143-178 as claims 105-140.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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